



Marine Debris Report – August 2006

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"Project Clean Sweep" Kick-off Event Held in Rhode Island

NOAA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere Tim Keeney, Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri, RI Department of Environmental Management officials, Rhode Island's congressional delegation, the U.S. Navy, Warwick, RI Mayor Scott Avedisian, the newly formed non-profit group Clean the Bay and a host of others held a kick-off event on August 15 for a major new Narragansett Bay initiative, "Project Clean Sweep," in Warwick, Rhode Island.

At the event, the RI Department of Environmental Management, in partnership with Clean the Bay, was presented by NOAA with the largest grant given to any state under the Marine Debris Program's partnership with the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program, \$150,000, to support an 18-month initiative to clean up marine debris in the Bay. Initial estimates from a major shoreline survey indicate that there may be over 500 tons of such debris just within the initial target areas, which include about 100 miles of shoreline within three priority Bay regions: Greenwich Bay, Metro Bay, and the Bay Islands and West Aquidneck Island shoreline. The project will involve a specially equipped 58-foot mechanized landing craft to collect and transport debris to the closest state boat ramp where it will then be properly disposed of. Following removal of the large debris, volunteers will complete a shoreline clean up, bagging any additional, small debris left behind.

Read more on this project and event at http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo_20060816_boat16.3282a09.html

Successful Tire Reef project kickoff event held in Broward County, FL

The Broward County Environmental Protection Department is partnering with the Florida Department of

Environmental Protection, U.S. Navy Salvage Divers and the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP), to conduct a pilot project to remove the waste tires from the coast. The Osborn Tire Reef feasibility project, funded in part by the NOAA MDP, will determine viable disposal options for tires in three classes: unfouled but entrained with salt water, moderately fouled and heavily fouled. This knowledge will allow the State of Florida and Broward County to make budget allocations necessary for the processing of the over one million tires that are planned to be salvaged from the Osborn Tire Reef with the assistance of the U.S. Navy. Tire removal will eliminate the threat to corals and the fish communities that depend on them.

To read more about this project and event, visit the following sites:

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-ctires23aug23.0,7673809.story>
<<http://www.local10.com/news/9718873/detail.html>>

Anacostia Trash Reduction Strategy underway

With funding from Marine Debris, OR&R partnered with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, District of Columbia, and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and others to develop an *Anacostia Trash Reduction Strategy* to address the estimated 20,000 tons of trash that enter the Anacostia River annually. This is the first plan to address trash in the watershed and coincides with the State of Maryland listing the Anacostia River for a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for trash. Synergy is building among partners to rid the river and its tributaries of debris and a multi-jurisdiction committee that includes NOAA has been formed to begin implementing some of the actions.

Volunteers Marking, Mapping & Picking Up Waterway Debris

Nearly a year after Hurricane Rita hit Southwest Louisiana, lake area waterways remain littered with storm debris. Saturday volunteers took to Calcasieu Lake, Moss Lake and West Cove, where they were marking and mapping trouble spots.

"They took orange markers with them and when they came upon an obstruction they either marked it or put a PVC stake in the ground," said Kevin Savoie. "They also marked the location in their GPS coordinates and they're bringing all that back on their data sheets."

Volunteering on this rainy day was fisherman Lane Stine, who admits all the debris got in the way of his game. "Lane: I can cast really far. Reporter: Did you hit any debris? Lane: Yeah. Reporter: Did you mark it? Lane: yeah."

The debris is also still posing a problem for commercial fishermen. "Since the storm, when we drag our big nets, anything along the bottom just gets scooped up in," says fisherman Darren Stelly.

Tim Osborn with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration explains some of their catches. "This is some of the erosion from the hurricane damage. There was a lot of that. This is a bumper fender from a dock. You've got a Christmas tree here, old fishing net and pieces of a mattress," said Osborn.

It seems every time they cast their nets they catch anything but shrimp, ultimately affecting their bottom line. "Last time they picked up a recliner, a king size mattress a couple of tires another telephone pole. There's a lot of pieces of telephone poles out there," said Stelly.

Osborn says these items are small in size compared to the thousands of hazards you can't see lurking just below the surface. "We have houses out there large steel tanks. We have 18-wheel trailers and ships," said Osborn.

Once marked and mapped, the Department of Natural Resources will come and remove the debris. But before that can happen more volunteers are needed. "If we can get it out before anybody has anymore accidents or someone really gets hurt badly or even worse -- killed, that would be great. Identifying the hazards is a good start," said Savoie. If you are out on the waterways be cautious of areas with orange bowies or white PVC poles -- those are areas that have been marked as hazards to boaters.

This effort is funded by the NOAA Marine Debris Program.

Marine Debris in the News

An interesting twist: Dolphin's life impacted by marine debris

<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/nation/15297167.htm>

Fishermen continuing efforts initiated by NOAA Marine Debris Program to recycle derelict nets

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060822/NEWS11/608220343>

Ports to clean up harbour

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=46740>

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